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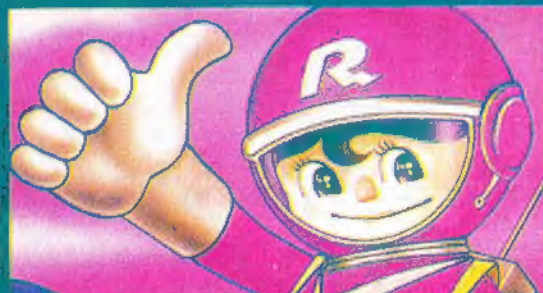
ROUND 29 - 1995/96 Ericsson Cup
SOUTH MELBOURNE v UTS OLYMPIC
Saturday 6th April 1996

BOB JANE STADIUM, MELBOURNE

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South Melbourne
Hellas Soccer Club

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EDITORIAL

Our game has really arrived



THIS HAS certainly been one of the most exciting national competitions played for many, many seasons.

Much of that lies in the unpredictability of the play with bottom clubs regularly climbing off the basement, at least for ninety minutes or so, to give their bigger neighbours a thumping.

That is good for the game; it breaks away from staleness and gives the kind of excitement which is sure to keep the turnstiles clicking away - and give the fans a few more heart stopping moments.

So, we are on our way to the finals with eight teams still trying to secure their berth.

I suspect that the outcome of this Easter holiday weekend double bank of fixtures will settle a lot of those issues - but then, maybe it won't.

Maybe the real fight will go right to 8.55pm on Sunday 28 April.

Unfortunately, our game is becoming the victim of its own success.

By bringing young players into the league all of our clubs are suffering by losses to the national teams.

The latest issue is the Olympic qualifiers with a resulting revamp of the Top Six series.

It's easy to be critical; to lash out with the pen or the spoken word and slam the game's administrators. But it looks like they are totally innocent of any blame.

Simply, we are copping the same sort of problem which

happens to countless other countries all over the world.

It is a sign that our football, at least on the international front, has really arrived.

Seemingly we can't eat our cake and have it too.

So, the Top Six has been adjusted by two weeks to let all clubs have the benefit of those highly talented young players for the first round of elimination games.

But after that they will go into camp for those vital Olympic qualifiers with the CONCACAF runners-up.

The new date for the Grand Final is May 26 and South Melbourne supporters will be marking that day down in red ink in their diaries.

But the loss of the Olyroo players isn't, no matter what some might think, an insurmountable problem.

All teams will also be without key players but ask any of the players who will now get a Grand Final chance as a result if they feel inferior in any way.

This is their big day; they won't do anything other than play their absolute best.

And I suspect that we will see a few names play really big games.

Aussie soccer has arrived, there is no doubt about that.

The Scots know it, we are feeling the consequences of it with the absence of our Olyroos - and it's now time to tell the rest of the Australian sporting public about it, too. May 26 might come and go without a few well known names but there will probably be a few new heroes at the end of it all.

SHE HASN'T STOPPED SINGING YET



LADY LUCK hasn't deserted the Bob Jane Stadium yet – although she certainly wasn't seen last week when little Sean Babic popped up in the dying minutes to give Sydney United a lifeline.

Up until then a share of the points looked on the cards and was certainly what South Melbourne deserved.

If fairness has anything to do with this game then we should

have had the point which would have also kept our Top Six hopes very much alive.

But then we wouldn't have been beaten by a very lucky Adelaide City a couple of weeks ago either.

In this game, though, you have to go out and make your own luck.

Ask Sean Babic – he won't tell anyone that he was lucky to come off the bench and score.

Instead he'll tell you that he was

ready to do it, he *wanted* that goal.

Maybe that's the difference, maybe it doesn't have anything to do with the Fat Lady at all.

Maybe you have to believe in yourself – for the full ninety minutes.

"We have to play consistently," agrees skipper Paul Trimboli.

"It's important to keep on playing to the final whistle – we can't afford to lose late goals.

"And if we do then we won't lose games."

Does that mean that this season's finals chances are blown?

Well, the Easter programme certainly isn't an easy one.

A home game against Olympic today and then a trip up to Bossley Park on Monday for a match with the league leaders, Marconi.

That's the top two teams in a 72 hour period - and they tell us that this is part time soccer!

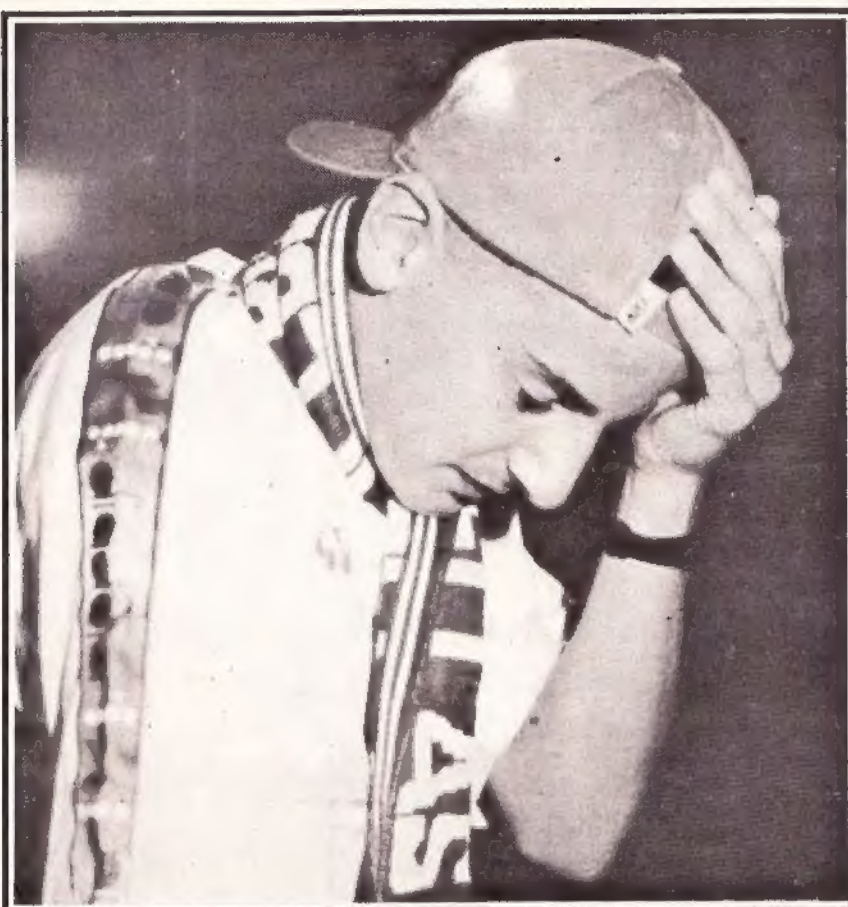
After those two games any remaining programme would seem easy.

And by my reckoning even six points from those two games will still see the Blues out of the Top Six by 3-5 points.

Can we catch up those in the remaining three fixtures?

One thing is certain - if we win every game on the way home then we are perfectly placed to take advantage of any slip up.

And the Fat lady hasn't stopped singing yet - so you old bitch, keep on humming your tune until April 28, the players will do the rest then.



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EASIER



ERICSSON  **MOBILE PHONES**

IT'S BEEN A hard season for the South Melbourne faithful, the famous Blue & White Army.

At this time of the season they are more used to working out the cost of interstate away Top Six trips than spending countless hours flicking calculator digits to work out the mathematics of a chance to still be there at the end.

But there have been positives.

One has been the arrival at a new home, the fabulous Bob Jane Stadium.

Without a doubt this is one of the best grounds in the league and a very nice place to call home.

Another has been the find of goalkeeper Michael Petkovic.

With a bit more experience he is sure to turn into one of the best keepers in the Ericsson Cup.

Other players to excel include Kiwi international Vaughan Coveny who has also found his scoring boots again.

Bill Damianos and Steve Panopoulos are also two talented players.

There are others, of course, but if you go through a list of the team then you only set yourself up for argument from others.

After all, it's a game of opinions.

But there can be no doubt about Paul Trimboli.

Mr Magic.

Defence splitting passes, delightful shimmies and vision to match any Clark Kent.

Surely, his name is now firmly embedded in Eddie Thomson's work pad.

He wouldn't have been out of place at Hampden Park and I can't help but thinking what could have been at Bob Jane Stadium this season if Con Boutsianis had still been pulling on the blue shirt.

Imagine what could be if Damian Mori decided to switch from Adelaide City

The club has already made enquiries about overseas based Paul Agostino and David Seal - either of them would be a perfect



Paul Trimboli: outstanding midfielder

A NICE PLACE TO CALL HOME

complement to Paul Trimboli who for my mind is the best midfielder that Australia has - at home or abroad.

It seems that there is only one person to impress that point on -

twelve thousand South Melbourne fans are ready to cheer his name every time he makes one of those legendary flicks.

John White

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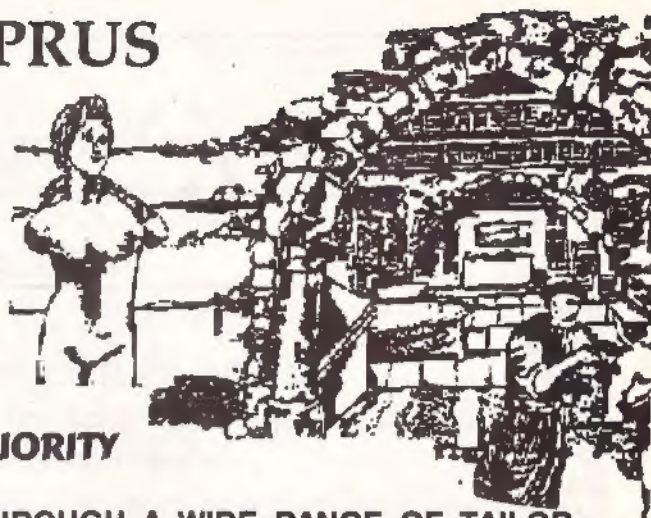
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD

Match Details

ROUND 28: v Sydney United (home) 31 March

LOST: 1-2

SCORER: Damianos

Att: 5,013

SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos (Damianos 55), Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser (Blatsis 65), Curcija, Muscat, Petkovic, Orlc

Referee: J Fraser

Yellow Cards: Muscat, Kuzmanovic

LOST: 1-2

SCORER: Coveny

A: 4,111

SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic (Orlic 73), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Curcija (Anthopoulos), Muscat

Referee: E Lennie

Yellow Cards: Petersen, Knezevic, Muscat

ROUND 27: v Wollongong City (away) 27 March

WON: 2-1

SCORERS: Panopoulos, Coveny

Att: 2,182

SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Baser (Sherifovski 45), Curcija (Damianos 87), Muscat, Petkovic, Orlc

Referee: G Connolly

Yellow Card: Panopoulos

ROUND 26: v Canberra Cosmos (home) 24 March

WON: 3-2

SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2

Att: 4,169

SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic (Blatsis 46), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Knezevic (Sherifovski 70), Baser, Curcija (Damianos 80), Muscat, Orlc

Referee: W Dade

Yellow Cards: Coveny, Muscat, Blatsis

ROUND 24: deferred match v Morwell (H) 20 Mar

WON: 3-2

SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2

Att: 4,873

SM: Petkovic, Muscat, Anthopoulos (Nikolic 81), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos (Curcija 46), Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Alsopp (Sherifovski 46)

Referee: E Brazzale

ROUND 25: v Adelaide City (away) 17 March



YOUNG STAR: Bill Damianos

PHOTO: Tony Gavradinas



TOOHEYS BLUE

Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

28	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
18	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
16	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
15	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
12	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
11	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
10	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
10	Vaughan COVENY (South Melbourne)
10	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
9	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
8	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
8	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)

On The Card

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 29

Easter Saturday

Adelaide City v Brisbane Strikers
Canberra Cosmos v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v UTS Olympic
Morwell Falcons v Newcastle Breakers
Sydney United v Melbourne Knights
Wollongong City v Marconi Fairfield

the next Ericsson Cup Matches at Bob Jane Stadium

v
West Adelaide
Sunday, 14 April 1996
KICK OFF 7.00pm

v
Newcastle Breakers
Sunday, 28 April 1996
KICK OFF 7.00pm

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Best Home Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Total Home Crowds:

95,230 (14 games)

Average Home Crowd:

6,659

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:

13,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9

*All figures are based on official ASF records and not those reported in the press.

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

11	Alsopp
15	Anastasiadis
17	Anthopoulos
19	Baser
14	Blatsis
23	Coveny
10	Curcija
23	Damianos
07	Davidson
05	Duric
16	Kelic
10	Knezevic
24	Kuzmanovic
17	Lewis
02	Lilikakis
07	Mangos
09	Muscat
15	Nikolic
09	Orlic (plus 16 for Olympic)
23	Panopoulos
04	Papadopoulos
27	Petersen
11	Petkovic
17	Sherifovski
26	Trimboli
11	Valkanis
TOTAL: 27 players	

GOAL SCORERS:

10	Vaughan COVENY
07	Ivan KELIC
07	Paul TRIMBOLI
05	Steve PANOPOULOS
05	Bill DAMIANOS
04	Michael CURCIJA
02	Agim SHERIFOVSKI
01	Daniel ALSOPP
01	Con BLATSIS
01	Craig LEWIS
01	Steve MANGOS
01	Nick ORLIC

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- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Jean-Paul Knezevic
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20
- 21
- 22 Kevin Muscat
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24 Nick Orlic
- 25
- 26 George Tsianakas
- 27

COACH:
Frank Arok



CURRENT FORM:

UTS Olympic have gone through a horror patch and seen their grip at the top of the Ericsson Cup totally whittled away.

South Melbourne's home form has been good enough to suggest that they could well inflict further misery on Olympic - but will have to maintain that elusive total concentration to do that.

The more likely scenario would be a draw - but that would kill of the Blues final chances of a Top Six spot.

Look out for young Ivan Zelic - a player of immense raw talent.

PREDICTION:

South Melbourne to scrape home - just.

OLYMPIC SQUAD

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| Mike Gibson | 1 |
| David Barrett (c) | 2 |
| Adam Ciantar | 3 |
| Nick Orlic | 4 |
| George Sorras | 5 |
| Peter Tsekenis | 6 |
| George Valas | 7 |
| Kimon Taliadoros | 8 |
| Norman Tome | 9 |
| Chris Slater | 10 |
| Kris Trajanovski | 11 |
| Walter Ardone | 12 |
| Raphael Bove | 13 |
| Elias Augerinos | 14 |
| Nick Meredith | 15 |
| Robbie Ironside | 16 |
| Milan Blagojevic | 17 |
| Scott Baillie | 18 |
| Con Paradisis | 19 |
| George Bouhoutsoas | 20 |
| Carlos Gonzales | 21 |
| Ivan Zelic | 22 |
| Alistair Edwards | 23 |
| | 24 |
| | 26 |
| | 27 |
| | 28 |

COACH:
David Ratcliffe

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v Sydney United (31.3.96) LOST 1-2
- v Canberra Cosmos (24.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Morwell Falcons (20.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Brisbane Strikers (25.2.96) DREW 0-0
- v Marconi (11.12.96) LOST 1-4
- v UTS Olympic (4.2.96) WON 2-1

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

- v Canberra Cosmos (27.3.96) DREW 1-1
- v Morwell Falcons (16.3.96) DREW 1-1
- v Newcastle Breakers (8.3.96) LOST 0-3
- v Brisbane Strikers (2.3.96) LOST 1-3
- v Marconi Fairfield (17.2.96) WON 3-1
- v Sydney United (11.2.96) WON 2-1

BIG MATCH RESULTS

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 27 split round

Wednesday 27 March

MORWELL FALCONS 1

Bothwell 87

Attendance: 1,254

WEST ADELAIDE 1

Tsekiris 85

Referee: C Naumcevski

CANBERRA COSMOS 1

Armstrong 90

Attendance: 2,340

UTS OLYMPIC 1

Trajanovski 38

Referee: 2,340

WOLLONGONG CITY 1

Lloyd 79

Attendance: 2,182

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2

Panopoulos 56 pen

Coveny 83

Referee: G Connolly

ADELAIDE CITY 3

Mori 10

Foster 89

own goal 90

Attendance: 3,368

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

Referee: W Dade

ROUND 28

Friday 27 March

NEWCASTLE BRKRS 1

Bennett 8

Attendance: 3,178

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4

Marth 18

Kutlesovski 27, 54

own goal 74

Referee: C Diomis

Saturday 28 March

BRISBANE STRIKERS 6

Brown 7, 68

Farina 17, 24

Polak 37

Battistin 41

Attendance: 8,516

MORWELL FALCONS 1

Spink 59

Referee: G Connolly

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2

Harper 17

Zoric 59

Attendance: 4,016

CANBERRA COSMOS 2

Koch 69

Musitano 78

Referee: D Crawford

Sunday 29 March

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

Damianos 59

Attendance: 5,013

SYDNEY UNITED 2

Lamond 3

S Babic 85

Referee: J Fraser

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	26	15	6	5	49	26	51
UTS Olympic	26	13	7	6	45	33	48
Sydney United	27	11	11	5	37	24	44
Melbourne Knights	27	12	8	7	30	18	44
Brisbane Strikers	27	13	5	9	42	32	44
West Adelaide	26	13	4	9	39	31	43
Adelaide City	26	11	7	8	49	35	40
South Melbourne	26	10	4	12	41	46	34
Morwell Falcons	26	8	6	12	30	49	30
Canberra Cosmos	26	6	9	11	41	50	27
Newcastle Breakers	27	4	5	18	32	62	17
Wollongong City	26	4	4	18	25	54	16

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

UTS OLYMPIC 1

Tome 66

Attendance: 5,176

WOLLONGONG CITY 0

Referee: B Hugo

WEST ADELAIDE 0

Attendance: 10,870

ADELAIDE CITY 3

Mori 6, 51

Mennillo 15

Referee: E Brazzale

ROUND 26

Sunday 24 March

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3

Curcija 33, Coveny 40, 55

Att: 4,169 Referee: W Dade

CANBERRA 2

Perinovic 19, Castro 68

ROUND 24 (deferred match)

Wednesday 20 March

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3

Curcija 55, Coveny 82, 89

MORWELL 2

Miller 43, Masi 60

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.

Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.

The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED

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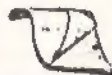
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 H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
 H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
 A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
 H v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
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 H v Adelaide City (23.12.95) WON 2-0
 A v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95) LOST 1-3
 H v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0
 A v Sydney United (7.01.96) LOST 1-4
 H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96) WON 2-1
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 A v West Adelaide (18.02.96) WON 2-0
 H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96) DREW 0-0
 A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96) LOST 2-4



ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96) DREW 1-1
 A v Adelaide City (17.03.96) LOST 1-2
 H v Morwell Falcons (20.03.96) WON 3-2
 H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96) WON 3-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.03.96) WON 2-1
 H v Sydney United (31.03.96) LOST 1-2
 H v UTS Olympic (6.04.96)
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96)
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